IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Gerhard LANGHANS et al. Examiner: Unassigned

Serial No.: Unassigned Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: December 22, 2003

Title: PROCESS AND DEVICE FOR BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF A

SUSPENSION IN A BIOREACTOR WITH INTEGRATED HYDRAULIC TOP

SCUM TREATMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.